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Job Search Experience

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Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Job Search Experience survey examines the job search experience of unemployed persons, with particular focus on two key aspects - steps taken to find work, and barriers encountered in finding work. It also provides information about employed persons who started their current job in the previous twelve months, the steps taken to attain work and their current job details.

PURPOSE

Data from the survey are used in formulating policies in areas such as labour market assistance, and control and review mechanisms for unemployment benefit payments.

SCOPE

This survey is conducted as part of the Monthly Population Survey, which comprises the Labour Force Survey and, in most months, a supplementary survey topic.

Scope - Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey includes all persons aged 15 and over except:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Scope - Job Search Experience (JSE)

The JSE survey also excludes students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with disabilities), and inmates of prisons. The survey only covers those who were unemployed in July and persons employed in July who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Coverage - Labour Force Survey

In the Labour Force Survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible.

Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of interview are enumerated at their usual residence (relevant information may be obtained from other usual residents present at the time of the survey).

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The survey presents data on the two populations: Unemployed persons and Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Main outputs

POPULATIONS

Population 1: Unemployed persons

Population 2: Employed persons who started that job in the previous 12 months

DATA ITEMS

State or territory of usual residence

Area of usual residence

Region of usual residence

Sex

Marital status

Relationship in household

Country of birth and period of arrival

Birthplace

Age group (years)

Level of highest educational attainment

Level of highest non-school qualification

Highest year of school completed

Highest non-school educational qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or in Australia

Number of jobs started in previous 12 months

Steps taken to find work/attain job

Whether looking for full-time or part-time work

Number of hours of work sought

Duration of current period of unemployment
Whether registered with Centrelink as a job seeker
All steps taken to find work
Active steps taken to find work
Active steps taken to find work while registered with Job Network employment agency
Whether registered with a Job Network employment agency
Number of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment
All difficulties in finding work
Main difficulty in finding work
Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months
Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months
Whether has ever worked
Status in employment in last job
Occupation of last job
Industry of last job
Whether worked full-time or part-time in last job
Duration of last job
Reason for ceasing last job
Whether has job to go to lasting two weeks or more
Whether out of work prior to starting last job
Whether first job ever held
All steps taken to attain job
Whether jobseeker approached employer
Whether had prior knowledge that job was available
Role of job network in job attainment
Month started job
Duration of looking for work before being offered job
Occupation of current job
Full-time or part-time status of current employment
Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works

Classifications

Demographics: State, Area, Region, Sex, Marital Status, Relationship in Household, Period of Arrival and Age.

Country of Birth: The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC).

Occupation: Australian Standard Classification of Occupations Second Edition (ASCO SE).

Industry: Australia and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

Educational attainment: Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).

Other concepts (summary)

Not applicable

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
ACT
Part of State Metropolitan
Part of State Extra-Metropolitan

Comments and/or Other Regions

Not all data available for all areas.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Annually

Frequency comments

COLLECTION HISTORY

Initial collection: Job Search Experience, July 2002. Collected annually.

Job Search Experience was the combination of two collections: Job search Experience of Unemployed Persons (cat. no. 6222.0) which was last run in July 2001 and Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience (cat. no. 6245.0) which was last run in July 2000.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Publication Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0)

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Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons survey examines the job search experience of unemployed persons, with particular focus on two key aspects - steps taken to find work, and barriers encountered in finding work.

PURPOSE

Data from the survey are used in formulating policies in areas such as labour market assistance, and control and review mechanisms for unemployment benefit payments.

SCOPE

This survey is conducted as part of the Monthly Population Survey, which comprises the Labour Force Survey and, in most months, a supplementary survey topic.

Scope - Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey includes all persons aged 15 and over except:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

From July 1993 Jervis Bay Territory is also excluded from the scope of the survey. Before July 1993 it was included in estimates for the Australian Capital Territory.

Scope - Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey (JSEUP)

The scope for JSEUP was the same as that used for the Labour Force Survey except that it was restricted to unemployed persons excluding those who were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week (for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown). Students at boarding school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, goals, etc. were also excluded.

The number of unemployed persons published in Labour Force, Australia, from July 1998 (ABS Cat. No. 6203.0) differs from that published in Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, from July 1998 (ABS Cat. No. 6222.0) because persons who were stood down were excluded from this survey, as it was inappropriate to ask them about their job search experience.

From July 1997, all supplementary surveys excluded persons in remote and sparsely settled areas of Australia. The exclusion of these persons has only a minor effect on estimates for individual States or Territories.

Coverage - Labour Force Survey

In the Labour Force Survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible.

Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of interview are enumerated at their usual residence (relevant information may be obtained from other usual residents present at the time of the survey).

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The survey presents data on the job search experience of two populations: unemployed persons (excluding those who were stood down) and unemployed persons who were employees in their last full-time job and who ceased that job in the last two years (excluding those who were stood down).

Main outputs

Results of the Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey (ABS Cat. no. 6222.0), including data tables and analysis are released in publication format, and include the following tables:

All unemployed persons: whether looking for full-time or part-time work

Unemployed persons: selected characteristics

Unemployed persons: duration of current period of unemployment

Unemployed persons: selected characteristics and whether looking for full-time or part-time work

Unemployed persons: whether looking for full-time or part-time work and duration of current period of unemployment

Active steps taken to find work and age - looking for full-time work

Active steps taken to find work and age

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months and age

Number of offers of employment in the previous twelve months and duration of current period of unemployment

Main difficulty in finding work and duration of current of current period of unemployment

Main difficulty in finding work and educational attainment

Main difficulty in finding work and birthplace

Main difficulty in finding work and age

All difficulties in finding work and age

Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months and relationship in household

Duration of current period of unemployment and educational attainment

Duration of last full-time job and age

Populations: State or territory of usual residence

Classifications

Demographics: State, Area, Region, Sex, Marital Status, Relationship in Household, Period of Arrival and Age.

Country of Birth: The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC).

Educational attainment: Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ) (to 2001), then Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).

Other concepts (summary)

Not applicable

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

- 1. National & State/Territory\1.01 Australia
- 1. National & State/Territory\1.02 All States & Territories
- 2. Parts of State\2.12 Other Geographic Areas\2.12.03 Part of State Metropolitan
- 2. Parts of State\2.12 Other Geographic Areas\2.12.04 Part of State-Extra Metropolitan

Comments and/or Other Regions

Not all data available for all areas.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Annually

Frequency comments

COLLECTION HISTORY

Initial collection: Persons Looking for Work, May 1976

Persons Looking for Work, November 1976

Persons Looking for Work, May 1977

Persons Looking for Work, July 1978 then annually until July 1980

Persons Looking for Work, June 1981

Characteristics of Persons Looking for Work, July 1982, July 1983

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991, July 1992, July 1993, July 1994 (reduction in sample to seven-eighths of Labour Force Survey sample), July 1995, July 1996, July 1997, July 1998, July 1999, July 2000

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Publication Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (ABS Cat. No.

6222.0)

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Job Vacancy Survey

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) is a quarterly survey which collects the number of job vacancies from a sample of businesses taken from the ABS Register of Businesses.

PURPOSE

The Survey of Job Vacancies is used to estimate the number of job vacancies in Australia. Estimates produced from this survey are a leading indicator of employment growth and are used for monitoring the Australian economy and formulating economic policy.

SCOPE

All job vacancies for wage and salary earners are represented in the Job Vacancies Survey (JVS), except those:

- in the Australian permanent defence forces
- in businesses primarily engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing
- in private households employing staff
- in overseas embassies, consulates, etc.
- located outside Australia.

The sample for the Job Vacancies Survey, like most Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) business surveys, is selected from the ABS Business Register which is primarily based on registrations to the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Pay As You Go Withholding (PAYGW) scheme (and prior to 1 June 2000 the Group Employer (GE) scheme). The population is updated quarterly to take account of:

- new businesses
- businesses which have ceased employing
- changes in employment levels
- changes in industry
- other general business changes.

The estimates include an allowance for the time it takes newly registered businesses to get on to the survey population.

Businesses which have ceased employing are identified when the ATO cancels their PAYGW registration. In addition, businesses which did not remit under the PAYGW scheme for the previous five quarters are removed from the frame.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

There are no international recommendations or guidelines relating to job vacancies statistics. However, it has been suggested that it is fairly simple to develop a definition of a 'vacant post' which parallels the definition of an 'unemployed person'.

The concept of vacant post was discussed in the general report to the Fifteenth ICLS 1993 where the following definition was put forward: "a 'vacant post' can be said to exist if an employer before or during the reference period has taken concrete steps to find a suitable person to carry out a specific set of tasks and would have taken on (entered into a job contract with) such a person if she/he had been available during the reference period".

Main outputs

Number of job vacancies by state/territory and sector and by industry division for Australia.

Australia by sector trend estimates and seasonally adjusted estimates are available.

Classifications

State

- Estimates are published at the state level; and
- They are not available for any smaller geographical area.

Sector

- Estimates are published at the sector level (private/public); and
- This is the smallest sector split available.

Industry

- Estimates are published at the ANZSIC division level (1 digit)

Other concepts (summary)

A job vacancy is a job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action has been taken.

Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by on site or online notices, by notifying employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the organisation. Estimates of job vacancies exclude:

- jobs not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date;
- jobs for which no recruitment action has been taken;
- jobs which became vacant on the survey date and were filled on the same day;
- jobs of less than one day's duration;
- jobs only available to be filled by internal applicants within an organisation;
- jobs to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial disputes;
- vacancies for work to be carried out by contractors; and
- jobs for which a person has been appointed but has not yet commenced duty.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia
New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
ACT

Comments and/or Other Regions

The largest geographical area covered is Australia. Estimates by state are available. Estimates for geographic areas below state level are not possible.

State estimates are available by sector but not by industry

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Quarterly

Frequency comments

Not applicable

COLLECTION HISTORY

A survey of job vacancies was first run in March 1974. Initially this was an annual mail based collection, based on payroll tax returns. The survey changed to a quarterly telephone based methodology in

May 1977 to improve the timeliness of the published statistics. The survey ceased following the May 1978 collection, but was re-introduced in response to user demand in May 1979. In 1983 the Job Vacancy Survey was merged with the Overtime Survey. The overtime component of the survey ceased following the May 1999 survey.

In August 2002, a number of statistical infrastructure changes were introduced for ABS economic collections. These changes were designed to make better use of data available from the taxation system to improve efficiency, coverage and sample design in the compilation of ABS economic series. The changes did not affect the continuity and comparability of the historical job vacancies series.

From November 2003, number of employees were no longer collected in the Job Vacancies Survey. The main impact of this change was that job vacancy rates were no longer presented in the Job Vacancies publication (cat. no. 6354.0).

The Job Vacancies Survey was suspended between August 2008 and August 2009 and was reinstated in November 2009 on the same basis as before the suspension, except that industry data changed from the 1993 edition to the 2006 edition of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

In February 2014, the web form was introduced. Due to the nature of the survey the take up rate for the web form is still only approximately 50%.

Winsorisation was introduced as the primary method to treat outliers in November 2017.

A sample redesign was implemented for February 2018. The aim of the redesign was to reduce RSEs and volatility in published estimates, while minimising the increase to the overall sample size. Another priority was to stratify by all industries as previously some industries were collapsed into a single group for stratification purposes.

May 2018 - Sector classification for stratification changed to the BRIMS sector variable.

The ABS is currently undertaking a major transformation to modernise its key statistical infrastructure. As part of this

transformation, the ABS is progressively adopting new data acquisition platforms. JVS commenced using early versions of this new DA infrastructure in May 2019.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

none

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Journey to Work, School and Shops, Adelaide

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The survey was conducted on a sample of about 2,400 households throughout the Adelaide Statistical Division in the month of October. It was conducted at the request of the South Australian Government.

The Monthly Population Survey is a survey conducted each month throughout Australia. It has two components, the Labour Force Survey and a set of supplementary questions. In most months the supplements are conducted on a national basis but each year, usually in October, each State and Territory Government is given the opportunity to select a topic of importance to their State. In 1997 the SA Government chose to request a survey on journey to work, school and shop.

Information for the 1997 survey was obtained about modes of transport used to travel to place of work and place of education; the origin and destination of journeys; departure time and duration of trip; main reason for using or not using a bus, train or tram; bicycle usage; whether passengers were taken and types of trips linked to the main journey to and from work. Not all this information was collected for cycles of the survey and in earlier cycles details of journey to shops was collected.

PURPOSE

To provide information to assist in better targeting of public transport

services, providing for latent demand for bicycle travel and identifying the scope for managing the demand for travel to reduce emissions and other environmental impacts. The information input to the development of transport policies and strategies to improve accessibility to employment and education.

SCOPE

Persons living in the Adelaide Statistical Division aged 5 or more years who are usual residents of private dwellings and caravan parks except:

1. members of the permanent defence forces;
2. certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
3. overseas residents in Australia; and
4. members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Coverage

As per the Monthly Labour Force Survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible.

Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of interview are enumerated at their usual residence (relevant information may be obtained from other usual residents present at the time of the survey).

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

Information about the journey to work was obtained only for persons who had a job last week, usually worked 15 hours or more per week and had not been away from their job for 4 weeks or more.

Information about the journey to place of education was collected for persons still attending school (includes kindergarten) and full-time post-school students aged less than 60 years. Information about bicycle non-usage by students, the departure time and duration of the study trip was collected only for full-time post-school students.

In 1981 and 1991 information about the journey to shops was

collected from the person responsible for the major household shopping trip.

Main outputs

Information is available for the Adelaide Statistical Division only, although origin and destination data is available for travel to work and study.

Information released from the most recent cycle in publication format included:

Main mode of travel to work and education, 1991 and 1997

Departure time by mode of travel to work

Duration of trip by mode of travel to work

Main reason for using public transport to work by sex

Main reason for not using public transport to work by sex

Main reason for not using public transport to place of education by sex

Main reason for not riding a bicycle to work by sex

Number of passengers taken on the trip to work

Main reason for taking passengers from the same household on the trip to work by sex

Main reason for not taking passengers from the same household on the trip to work by sex

Main reason for taking passengers from other household on the trip to work by sex

Main reason for not taking passengers from other household on the trip to work by sex

Classifications

Basic demographic (such as age and sex) and labour force classifications are used. Other classifications include:

Persons who had a job last week, usually worked 15 hours or more per week and had not been away from their job for 4 weeks or more:

Form of transport

Suburb of location of place of work

Departure time

Duration of trip

Reason for not using public transport

Reason for not using a bicycle

Reason for taking passengers

Reason for not taking passengers

Activities done on the work trip

Persons still attending school (includes kindergarten) and full-time post-school students aged less than 60 years:

Main form of transport

Suburb of location of place of education

Reason for not using public transport

Full-time post-school students aged less than 60 years:

Reason for not using a bicycle

Departure time

Duration of trip

Other concepts (summary)

Not applicable

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

South Australia

Part of State Metropolitan

Comments and/or Other Regions

Adelaide Statistical Division.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Adhoc

Frequency comments

The survey has been conducted 3 times in various forms, all as State Supplements to the Labour Force Survey,

COLLECTION HISTORY

Conducted in 1981, 1991 and in 1997.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Data is available in ABS Cat No. 9201.4 Customised data services are available to clients on request.

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